

Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached replacement drawing sheet makes changes to FIGS. 1-3 and replaces the original sheet with FIGS. 1-3.

Attachment: Replacement Sheet

REMARKS

Claims 19-35 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, the specification and the drawings are amended to overcome the objections as set forth in the November 13, 2006 Office Action. Support for the amendments to the specification and the drawings can be found in paragraphs [0023]-[0025] of the specification as originally filed. No new matter is added by these amendments.

Applicant notes with appreciation that the Patent Office indicated that claims 19-35 are in condition for allowance.

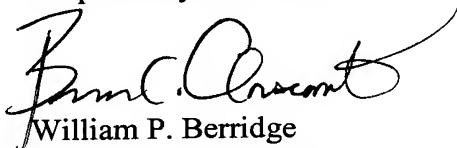
In the Office Action, the Patent Office objected to the specification as allegedly being misdescriptive in referring to "hydrogen" (instead of "hydroxide") source 5, 15 and 25 on pages 5 and 6. Applicant has amended the specification to replace "hydrogen source 5", "hydrogen source 15" and "hydrogen source 25" with "hydroxide source 5", "hydroxide source 15" and "hydroxide source 25", respectively. Paragraph [0025] of the specification is amended to delete "solution 25" from "hydroxide source solution 25". Applicant respectfully requests the withdrawal of the objection to the specification.

The Patent Office objected to the drawings as allegedly being incomplete. More specifically, the Patent Office asserts that various elements, such as, for example, catalyst 4, purge gas 7, catalyst 14, purge gas 17, catalyst 24 and purge gas 27 are missing from the drawings. Applicant has amended the drawings, as shown in the attached Replacement Sheet, incorporating "hydroxide source 5" and "catalyst 4" into FIG. 1; incorporating "hydroxide source 15" and "catalyst 14" into FIG. 2; and incorporating "catalyst 24" into FIG. 3. During a telephone conversation with the Examiner on November 21, 2006, Examiner Langel acknowledged that elements purge gas 7, purge gas 17 and purge gas 27 were shown in FIGS. 1-3, respectively, as originally filed. Moreover, Examiner Langel indicated that the amendments to the drawings as set forth in the Replacement Sheet overcome the objection to

the drawings. Applicant thus respectfully requests the withdrawal of the objection to the drawings.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that claims 19-35 are in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: January 12, 2007

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